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**Hudson Fatal Fire Started in Rear Bedroom**

Hudson's Acting Fire Chief John Blood and State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan announced that the fatal fire on June 26, 2006 located at 178 Lincoln Street, Hudson will remain undetermined, but is not believed to be suspicious. The fire took the life of Fredrick E. Compton, the 72-year old man who lived in the residence.

Coan said, "Local and state fire investigators are trained to determine where the fire started and to conduct a forensic fire scene examination and to interview witnesses. They will systematically eliminate all possible ignition scenarios until they are left with the most probable one, the cause of the fire." National Fire Protection Association standards for fire investigators require them to leave a fire cause as undetermined when they are not able to rule out all but one possible cause. Chief Blood said, "The fire started in the rear bedroom and there were no signs of forced entry or foul play. Investigators are unable to rule out all but one ignition scenario, but have no evidence that this was anything but an unintentional fire."

There were no working smoke alarms in the home. According to the Massachusetts Fire Incident Reporting System, one-quarter of fire deaths occur where there are no working smoke alarms. Chief Blood said, "Working smoke alarms would most certainly have given the victim early warning of the fire and a chance to escape." He added, "I ask all citizens of Hudson to take a moment to make sure they have working smoke alarms on every level of their home. Test them tonight and remember that detectors that are more than 10 years old should be replaced."

Chief Blood said, "It is always hard on the firefighters when they are not able to make a successful rescue, but I want to acknowledge their hard work to get the victim quickly and then fight the fire effectively."

The fire was jointly investigated by the Hudson Fire Department, the Hudson Police Department and State Police assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal.